

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: TEXTILES - REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH
AUSTRALIA

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DELIVERED TODAY FOLLOWING NOTE IN
RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE REQUESTING CONSULTATIONS UNDER
ARTICLE 9 OF MFA:

QUOTE THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER
TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF 18 APRIL REQUESTING CON-
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SULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA UNDER PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE 9
OF THE ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN
TEXTILES.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE TARIFF MEASURES WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE IN TEXTILES AND THE AVOIDANCE OF DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS IN THE MARKETS OF INDIVIDUAL IMPORTING COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THESE AND OTHER MEASURES, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INSTITUTED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF

ASSISTANCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN TEXTILES INDUSTRY TO HELP IT ADJUST TO A REASONABLE (AND NOT DISRUPTIVE) LEVEL OF IMPORTS.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECALLS THAT PARAGRAPH 6 OF ARTICLE 1 OF THE GATT TEXTILES ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES THAT "THE ARRANGEMENT SHALL NOT AFFECT THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE". FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT TARIFF OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GATT CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL AGREEMENT IS NOT RELATED TO ARTICLE 9 (OR ANY OTHER PROVISION) OF THE TEXTILES ARRANGEMENT.

NEVERTHELESS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS WILLING TO CONSULT BILATERALLY WITH ANY OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS ON MATTERS AFFECTING MUTUAL TRADE. ACCORDINGLY, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE PLEASED, ON THIS BASIS, TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME AND PLACE IN RESPECT OF THE TARIFF ACTION TAKEN BY AUSTRALIA IS SO FAR AS IT AFFECTS IMPORTS OF TEXTILES INTO AUSTRALIA FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 10 JUNE 1975. UNQUOTE.

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2. AUSTRALIANS SAID AT TIME OF DELIVERY THAT THEY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY THAT THEIR PREFERENCE FOR VENUE FOR CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE CANBERRA.

3. AUSTRALIANS HAVE PRESUMABLY MADE SIMILAR - IF NOT IDENTICAL - RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR CONSULTATIONS BY EC AND GOJ. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF HOW GOA RESPONSE WILL BE RECEIVED BY EC AND JAPAN, AND WHERE YOU THINK THOSE GOVERNMENTS WILL GO FROM HERE.

4. FYI WE DO NOT WISH TO GET ANY FURTHER QUOTE OUT IN FRONT UNQUOTE IN THIS MATTER, INASMUCH AS USG IS LEAST

EFFECTED (AT PRESENT) OF THE THREE TRADING ENTITIES.
AT THE SAME TIME WE DO HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN PREVENTING
THESE GOA TQ ACTIONS FROM UPSETTING THE MFA. HENCE, ANY
REACTION YOU CAN OBTAIN FROM EC COMMISSION AND GOJ MITI
WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING OUR RESPONSE TO GOA FOR
BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT
NONE OF THE THREE ENTITIES (US, EC, AND JAPAN) COULD
ACCEPT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BECAUSE OF MFA EQUITY

CONSIDERATIONS AND RISK OF MFA EXPORTING COUNTRIES
CLAIMING THAT IMPORTING MFA COUNTRIES WERE WHEELING AND
DEALING AT EXPENSE OF EXPORTING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER,
THIS IS JUST A PRELIMINARY REACTION, AND WE WOULD
WELCOME VIEWS OF EC AND GOJ. END FYI. KISSINGER

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